

# Political Financing in Democratic Societies

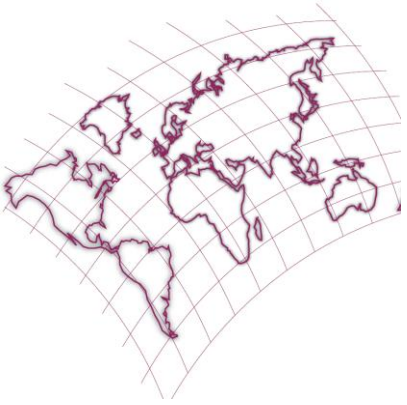


Presentation by Octavio Soares  
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Financing  
Chief Electoral Officer of Québec

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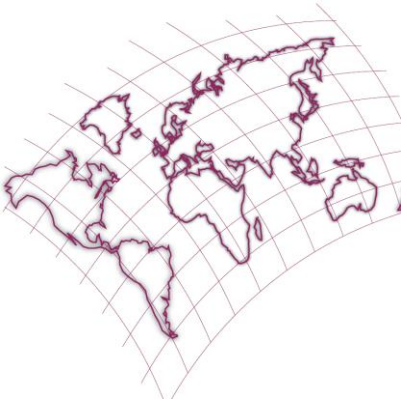


LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL  
DES ÉLECTIONS DU QUÉBEC



# Presentation

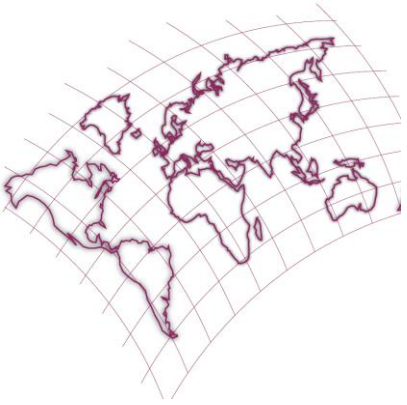
- Founding principles
- Main components of political financing
- Issues and challenges



# 1. Founding principles

A. Transparency

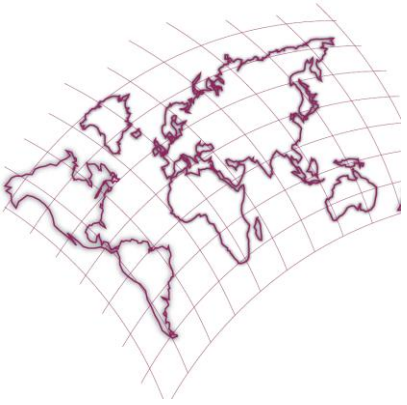
B. Fairness



# 1. Founding principles

## A. Transparency

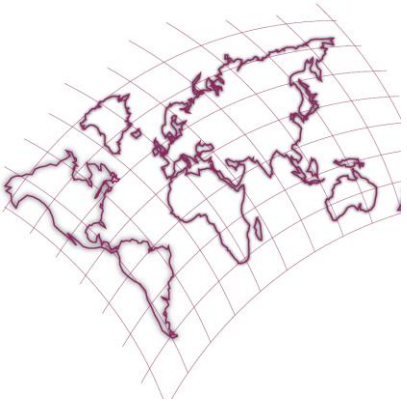
- Sources of financing must be disclosed
- Reporting is mandatory
- Ads must identify sponsoring individual or organization



# 1. Founding principles

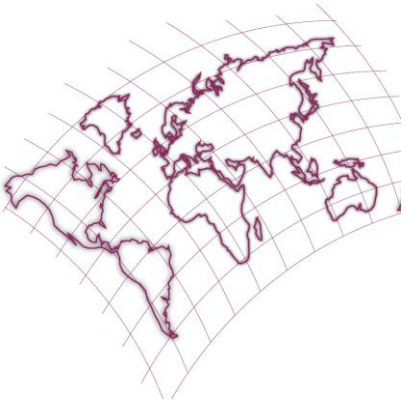
## B. Fairness

- Amounts of contributions are limited
- Certain sources of financing are prohibited
- Election expenses are capped
- The State pays part of the expenses



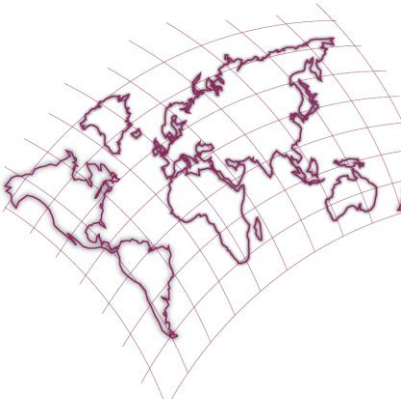
## 2. Main components of political financing

- A neutral, independent and permanent institutional structure
  - Authorization of political parties and candidates
  - A minimum of restrictions on running as a candidate or forming a political party



## 2. Main components of political financing

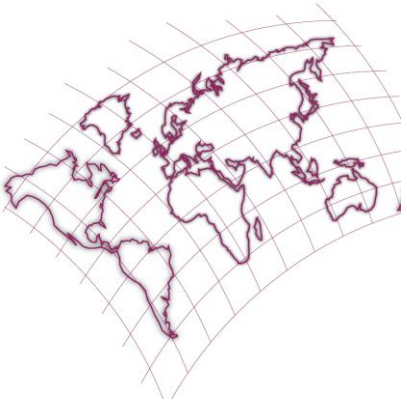
- Rules to oversee and limit
  - sources of financing
  - election expenses



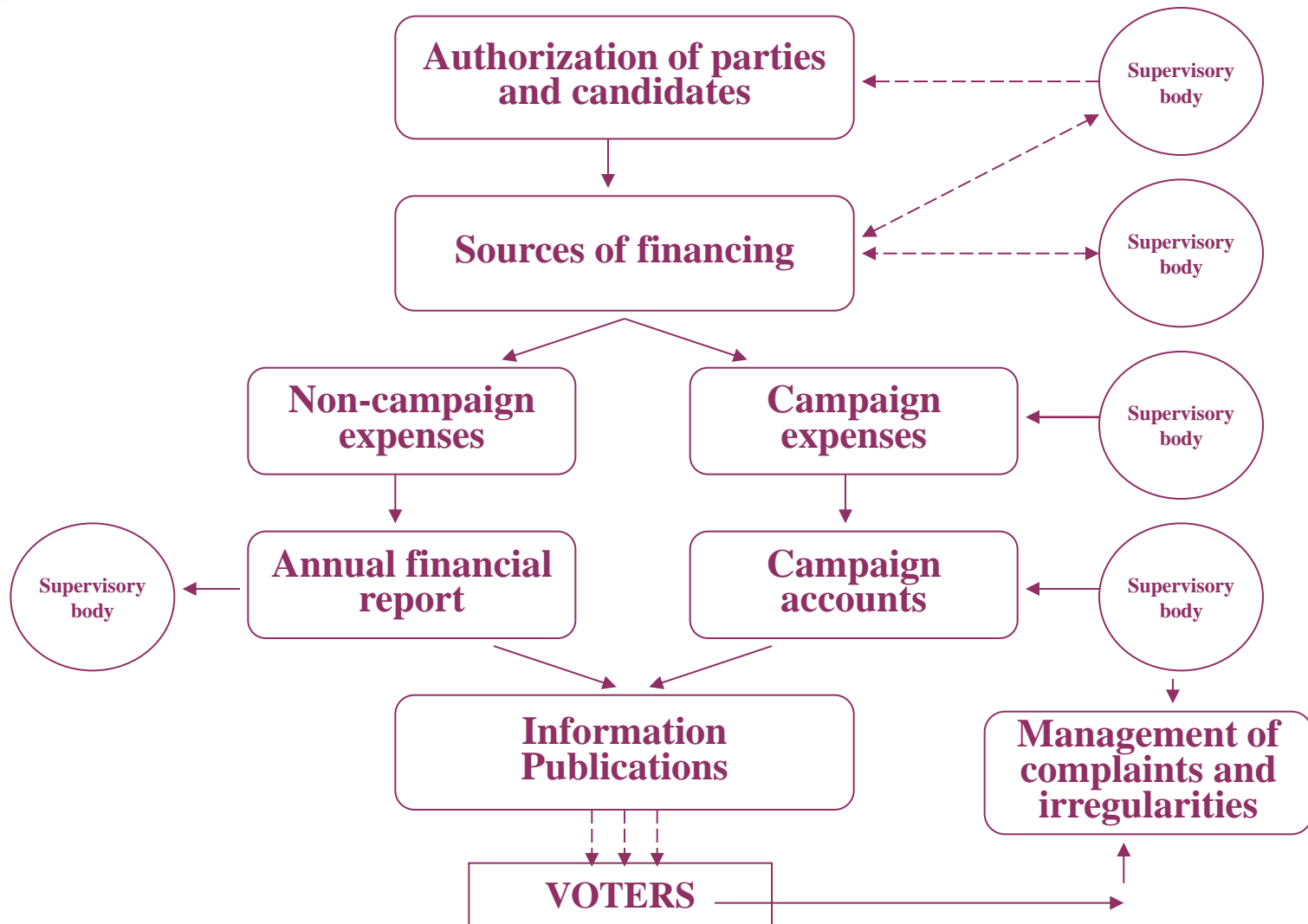
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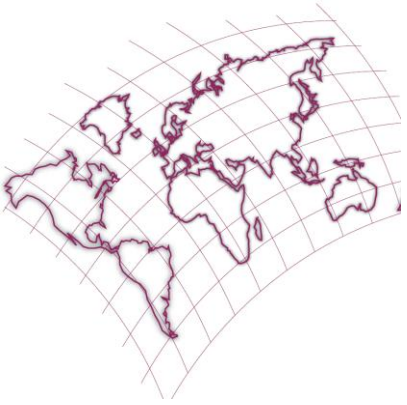
- Sanctions
- Source of information





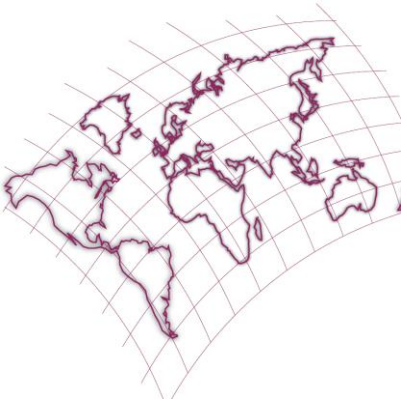
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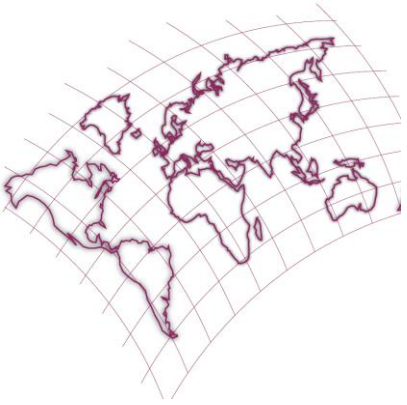
## 3. Issues and challenges

- Difficulty in enforcing rules
  - Refusal to cooperate
- Lack of tools
  - Access to information
  - Power to compel
  - Sanctions
  - Resources



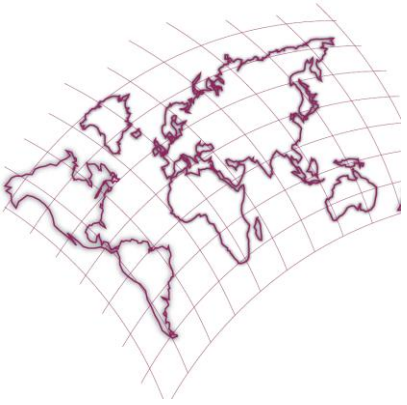
## 3. Issues and challenges

- Challenges before the courts
  - Freedom of expression
- ICT
  - Valuation of cost-free messages
  - Monitoring difficulties



## 3. Issues and challenges

- New ways of circumventing rules
  - Indirect contributions, turn-key election services, in-and-out transactions etc.
- Erosion of trust and cynicism
  - The media
  - Perceptions



## 3. Issues and challenges

- Protection of personal information
  - Data on contributors
- No consensus on solutions
  - More lenient rules? Stricter rules?